

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13
ACDA-07 AGR-05 OES-07 DLOS-09 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 /120 W
-----081324Z 084615 /46

R 080645Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 716
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0743

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR XF IZ MU
SUBJECT: IRAQI MISSION TO GULF

REF: BAGHDAD 0741

1. RESPONDING TO AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION ABOUT MAY 1-3 VISIT TO MUSCAT BY IRAQI MININTERIOR IZZAT IBRAHIM AND PARTY OF EIGHTY, FONMIN UNDERSECRETARY AL-ALAWI DISCUSSED VISIT IN FOLLOWING TERMS.

2. IRAQIS HAD COME WITH SEVERAL WRITTEN PROPOSALS FOR JOINT VENTURES THROUGH WHICH IRAQ WOULD ASSIST OMAN'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, AND WOULD MAKE IRAQI EXPERTS AVAILABLE TO SERVE IN OMAN. OMANIS
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HAD BEEN VERY FRANK WITH VISITORS, STATING THEY COULD NOT CONCEIVE HOW SUCH BILATERAL COOPERATION COULD BE CONSIDERED SO LONG AS IRAQ GOVERNMENT IS SUPPORTING ENEMIES OF OMAN SUCH AS PFLO. AL-ALAWI SAID HE CONFRONTED IRAQIS WITH EVIDENCE THAT PFLO VISITORS CONTINUE TO GO TO AND FROM BAGHDAD, OBTAIN TRAINING AND OTHER SUPPORT THERE, AS WELL AS PROPAGANDA ENCOURAGEMENT. IRAQIS RESPONDED THAT THEY COULD HARDLY

INTERFERE WITH FREE MOVEMENT OF ANY ARABS TO AND FROM THEIR COUNTRY. THEY CLAIMED IT WAS THE BAATH PARTY, NOT IRAQI GOVERNMENT, THAT CONDUCTED SUCH ACTIVITIES, A DISTINCTION THEY ALLEGED WAS IMPORTANT. THEY ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT A NEW "LAW" WAS PROMULGATED IN BAGHDAD IN APRIL BARRING ALL VISITORS FROM CONSPIRING, WHILE IN IRAQ, AGAINST ANY COUNTRY WITH WHICH IRAQ ENJOYS FRIENDLY RELATIONS.

3. AL-ALAWI SAID THAT IN MEETING WITH SULTAN QABOOS, IZZAT IBRAHIM PROMISED PERSONALLY TO SEE THAT ANY ACTIVITY WITHIN HIS COUNTRY HARMFUL TO OMAN STOPS. HE INVITED A RETURN VISIT TO OMANI DELEGATION, BUT RECEIVED NEITHER A YES OR NO ANSWER. (HOWEVER, OMANI RADIO HAS REPORTED DEPARTURE STATEMENT BY IZZAT IBRAHIM CLAIMING OMAN AGREED TO SEND DELEGATION.)

4. ACCORDING TO AL-ALAWI, IRAQIS PROBABLY DID NOT EXPECT THEIR JOINT VENTURE PLOY TO SUCCEED, GIVEN THE LONG-HELD AND WELL-DOCUMENTED SUSPICIONS OF OMANGOV ABOUT IRAQIS' REAL INTENTIONS IN GULF, AND IN OMAN ESPECIALLY.

5. OMANIS PROVIDED IRAQI DEL WITH VERY COURTEOUS RECEPTION, BUT HAD LITTLE HOPE ANYTHING SPECIFIC WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED. MOST NOTABLE FEATURE AT OFFICIAL OMANGOV DINNER FOR VISITORS MAY 1 WAS PRESENCE OF SEVERAL DOZEN YOUNG, TOUGH-LOOKING IRAQIS, ASSUMED TO BE SECURITY GUARDS, WHO SAT BY THEMSELVES BUT WOLFED UP MUCH OF THE BUFFET TRAMPLING A FEW SLOW-.MOVING OMANI MINISTERS AND DIP CORPS MEMBERS IN THE PROCESS. MEDIA-WISE, OMAN GAVE THE VISIT GENEROUS BUT NOT ABNORMAL COVERAGE.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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